

## Wolfhound Power

*25th ID troops  
root out insurgents*

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## Special forces training Marines train Iraqi troops

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## Keepin' them truckin'

*Transportation Soldiers  
keep supplies flowing*

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# New secretary of the Army sworn in



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, the director of administration and management, swears in Francis J. Harvey as the 19th secretary of the Army Nov. 19.

### DOD Press Release

**WASHINGTON** — Francis J. Harvey was sworn in as the 19th secretary of the Army Nov. 19 at the Pentagon.

Harvey succeeds Les Brownlee, who served as the acting secretary of the Army for the past 18 months.

"This is a great honor for me," Harvey said. "My top priority will be to serve our Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the active component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. I look forward to working with the secretary of Defense, the Army chief of staff, General Pete Schoomaker, and the Army senior leadership as we fight the Global War on Terrorism while continuing to transform the force."

The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Harvey Nov. 16.

"It's great to have Doctor Harvey on board as our secretary. Doctor

Harvey has a wealth of experience leading large organizations with diverse work forces, managing major programs and leading technology development. His education and industry experience will serve us well as he leads our Army in this window of strategic opportunity," said Schoomaker.

As secretary of the Army, Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management. He is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5 billion and leads a workforce of more than one million active-duty, Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors and has stewardship over 15 million acres of land.

Prior to his appointment, Harvey was a business executive with broad

experience centered on the defense industry. He held various professional, management and executive positions within the Westinghouse Corporation from 1969 to 1997, including president of the Electronics Systems Group, president of the Government and Environmental Services Company, and chief operating officer of the \$6 billion Industries and Technology Group. Most recently, he was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous and other wastes. In his career, he has been involved in one or more phases of more than 20 major Department of Defense programs.

Harvey earned his doctorate in metallurgy and material sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and his bachelor of science degree at the University of Notre Dame in metallurgy engineering and material science. He was a White House Fellow in the U.S. Department of Defense in the late 1970s.

## U.S., Iraqi troops strive to protect mosques

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Strict discipline among coalition troops and precision weaponry are credited with ensuring minimal damage to mosques and other sacred buildings during anti-insurgent operations in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq, a senior defense official in Baghdad told reporters Saturday.

Only after it has been conclusively proven that the mosque is being used to launch attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces — and therefore has lost its "protected status" under established rules of engagement — does it become

fair game for attack, the official explained during a conference-call interview.

His remarks came one day after 36 Iraqi commandos, backed up by U.S. forces, raided the Abu Hanifa mosque in Baghdad, long associated with anti-American activity. "We found what we think were enemy that had come out of Fallujah and sought refuge there," the official said. "All the right indicators to go in there were present."

They felt they had the intelligence and were doing the right thing."

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## Can you hear me now?



Sgt. 1st Class Johancharles Van Boers

Airman 1st Class Christopher Komorek (right) provides cover while Airman 1st Class Kyle Sharp calls in air support during combat operations in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 13. Both Airmen are assigned to the 9th Air Support Operation Squadron.



# Fallujah yielding 'significant finds,' general reports

By John D. Banusiewicz  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As Soldiers and Marines in the Iraqi city of Fallujah provide humanitarian aid to citizens while still fighting pockets of resistance, they continue to make "significant finds" of weapons, U.S. Central Command's second-in-command told reporters here Nov. 19.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance L. Smith said at a Pentagon news conference that over the previous 10 days a single unit had found 91 weapons caches and 431 improvised explosive devices in one sector of Fallujah.

"In contrast to that, the entire Marine Expeditionary Force found 48 caches and 93 IEDs in the month of October, and in all of Iraq in the month of October, units found 130 caches and destroyed 348 IEDs," he said. "So that is an incredibly significant amount of weapons and IEDs that were found in the city."

Smith said Soldiers and Marines also found

large IED-making facilities and facilities for making vehicle-borne bombs. "So clearly, besides being a safe haven for leadership and command and control, Fallujah was a center for making the IEDs that were being produced and used in other parts of the country to attack the coalition," he said. "And we continue to make significant finds in the city every day."

The Fallujah operation struck a severe blow to the insurgency's command and control structure, the general said. "We're going to find continued evidence, we think, that we've severely disrupted the insurgents' game plan as we go back and take a look at the exploitation of what we've done," he explained. "As you know, we went through the city house by house. We are now going back and re-looking at some of the areas we've been to make sure that we're capturing all the information that's available out there."

These continued operations and the fact that some insurgents remain in the city mean it's still a dangerous place, Smith said.

"It looks like these are some of the

jihadists," he said. "We're not sure whether they're foreign fighters or local, but what we see from them is the type of people that are there prepared to fight to the very last. Some of them have explosive vests that they're fighting with that will — as our Soldiers go into the buildings or wherever they are — we expect that they'll blow themselves up to cause further casualties. So we are slowly working ourselves through those limited areas where we still are."

In other parts of the city, U.S. Soldiers and Marines and Iraqi security forces are handing out food and water.

"This is not a humanitarian crisis," Smith emphasized. "The number of folks that have come out to get food and water have not been significant. We believe most of the innocent and the families left the city before the attack occurred. And we are going to continue to clear out the city and make sure it's safe before we actually allow large numbers of humanitarian organizations into the city."

Smith said the focus of current operations is

to make Iraq safe enough for the country's citizens to vote.

"We are intent on trying to provide a secure and stable enough situation to be able to conduct nationwide elections in January," he said. "Now, I will not pretend that that's not a challenge at this stage, but we will continue along those lines."

He reminded reporters of the skepticism a year ago as to whether Afghanistan would be able to hold its presidential election, which was conducted successfully last month.

"I think that bodes somewhat well for the Iraqis, in that we're seeing a similar level of interest in elections and politics with the Iraqi people that we saw with the Afghans," the general said. "You'll recall we didn't expect more than about six million people to register in Afghanistan. We ended up with 10 and a half million registered, and almost nine million Afghan residents voted, of which about 40 percent were women — which would be

See FALLUJAH, Page 10

## Modular brigades prep for deployment



By Steven Field  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The concept of modularity is approaching its first true test as units across the United States undergo transformation and prepare for deployments overseas.

With four modular brigades set up under the 3rd Infantry Division training and several companies reorganizing and reflagging under the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the time is rapidly approaching when the Army will send a "unit of execution" and subordinate brigade combat teams (units of action) into combat, testing the modular, "plug-and-play" vision inspired by transformation.

A successful deployment would provide validation for the model that will be applied to each of the ten Army divisions by 2007.

In these upcoming deployments, two BCT (UA)s from the 3rd Infantry Division will fall under the command of the 42nd Infantry Division in north central Iraq when they deploy this winter. The rest of the division is slated to deploy with a unit from the Louisiana Army National Guard to a different part of Iraq shortly after.

In the ramp-up to these deployments, the newly reorganized BCT (UA)s have gone through rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

"JRTC was our capstone exercise that culminated all the training we did since we were activated in May 2004," said Maj. Alayne Conway, a spokeswoman for the 3rd Infantry Division's 4th BCT (UA).

### From the ground up

The story of the 4th BCT is one that epitomizes the transformation philosophy. The unit had about 21 soldiers when it was

activated, and in six months gained approximately 1,500 Soldiers, garnered new equipment and conducted three major training exercises. The Army took three different battalions from three different brigades with three different cultures and joined together as one team, said Conway.

The 4th BCT (UA) had to be built from the ground up. And about eight months after its formation, it will be deployed to Iraq with another BCT (UA) from the 3rd Infantry and a brigade from the Louisiana Army National Guard in one of the first modular deployments.

"In six months, we did what a normal unit can expect to do in four to five years," said Conway.

The changes mandated by transformation were especially felt among artillery Soldiers, whose battalions were integrated into all units and face new infantry-like requirements and missions as the Army changes.

Soldiers of the 4th BCT (UA) coined the term "infartillery" during their rotation at JRTC to describe their new functions. While they still had traditional artillery responsibilities, they also prepared to go into towns, do security sweeps and deal directly with the people in the country that they operate in, jobs typically reserved for other Soldiers like infantry and civil affairs.

### Fort Campbell follows suit

Following in the footsteps of the 3rd Infantry Division is the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky., which officially kicked off its transformation effort Sept. 16. By March 15, the division will have reorganized into four BCT (UA)s, two aviation BCT (UA)s and a support UA.

There have already been major changes at Fort Campbell, especially with the transformation of the post's two aviation brigades — the 101st Aviation Brigade and the 159th Aviation Brigade, said Campbell spokeswoman Cathy Gramling.

Currently, the 101st Brigade is strictly an attack-helicopter brigade, while the 159th Brigade is purely an assault-helicopter brigade.

Several of the aviation companies under the 101st and 159th have reflagged and moved around in creating a modular brigade structure, she said.

When transformation of the 101st Division is complete in mid-March 2005, both aviation brigades will be made up of an attack battalion, an assault battalion, a cavalry squadron, a general-support aviation battalion and an aviation-support battalion.

### Transformation beyond Stryker

The first deployment using the new modular brigade will begin only a few months after the return the Army's first Stryker Brigade.

The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, recently returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., after a yearlong deployment in Iraq.

While the performance of the vehicle silenced critics and won the praise of its operators and senior Army leaders, commanders of units with the SBCT were quick to point out the people were the factor that made the deployment of the brigade a success.

"The Stryker Brigade is not about the vehicle, it's about the Soldiers and the non-commissioned officers and officers," said Lt. Col. Buck James, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. "We are building the next generation of leaders and preparing for the future of the Army."

### Modularity to grow Army

Adding a fourth brigade-sized element to each Army division is part of the larger plan to increase the number of Army brigades from 33 to 43 by the end of fiscal 2007.

The 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., will transform into modular brigades this fiscal year.

The modular restructuring of the Army will help combatant commanders rapidly identify units for deployment on short notice; allow units to sustain operations with minimal or no augmentation; enhance a unit's ability to deploy; and provide greater troop readiness, according to Army officials.

# Job safety standards on site in Iraq

## *Selling safety on the job in Iraq requires finesse*

By B.J. Weiner

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Gulf Region Division

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Inspectors who monitor medical clinic construction sites on a former military base in south central Iraq are promoting safety standards the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deems critical for the safety of its contractors and subcontractors.

Tasked by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and the Project Contracting Office in Baghdad, the Corps of Engineers has been charged with providing environmental, safety and quality at 11 medical clinic sites on seven bases.

"Safety doesn't change and construction is inherently dangerous," said Frank Kalisz, the Corps' resident engineer at one of the bases. "We have a rule at the Corps — anytime anyone sees something life-

threatening or a serious safety deficiency, it's our duty to jump on it and stop work. The most important thing we can do is to be safe."

But enforcing safety can be a problem when the local contractors and laborers have never adhered to or even been exposed to safety standards.

"When I first came to Iraq with the [Captured Enemy Ammunition] program out of the Huntsville Center, there were a lot of safety challenges," said Chuck Kennedy, a project engineer and site manager for Tetra Tech Foster Wheeler (TtFW). "One of the things that I thought was really innovative was done at our site at Az Zubayr. We were having trouble getting the local workers to follow safety, whether it was wearing hard hats or real shoes instead of sandals. A lot of people just kind of gave up and said, 'We're in Iraq, don't worry about that.' However, my site

safety manager, Jerry Booth, came up with an idea to solve the problem."

Booth found several bilingual workers and convinced them that safety was the smart thing to do, according to Kennedy. Booth knew that because they were part of the culture that they would do a better job convincing their fellow workers to comply with safety standards. It worked so well that when Kennedy arrived at his present site, he decided to implement the idea.

"Safety is a special challenge here in Iraq," he said. "I am not going to pretend that we meet standards [required in the continental United States] — the government recognizes that. Back in the world, the Corps has a thick document of those standards. Here, though, we have adopted interim standards — things that are achievable in Iraq."

Kennedy cited two specific challenges: the safety gear and the equipment. First, the gear people in the U.S. are required on site poses a problem in Iraq. Normally, his company would insist that workers wear steel-toed shoes, he said, but that in

Iraq, real shoes are required. "When I go out and see guys working barefoot, I'll shut down a site," he said. "And they like to wear sandals here. But we can enforce real shoes. They may be tennis shoes, but they are real shoes."

The required jumpsuits cause difficulties because they are uncomfortable to wear, particularly in the summer, he said. Some other things that were a challenge to enforce was making sure the workers had adequate weather accommodations at the sites.

"One thing we put in our plans is that [the subcontractors] are responsible to provide a shady place for rest," he said. "We put up buildings and tents. We also ensure there is plenty of clean drinking water. Every time I go out to the work site, I have a case of water in my truck in case they don't have any." He added that during Ramadan, devout Muslims cannot eat or drink during the day, so the work hours were shortened when the temperature rose above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The safety standards required by the Corps, its contractors and sub-

contractors requires some give and take by both sides, according to Jamal, a site project engineer. Jamal said he took safety seriously from the beginning of his employment and now assists Kennedy in enforcing the standards.

"It will take a while for my people to get used to these things," he said, "so we need to go a bit slower. For example, the safety gloves. They are big and bulky and it is difficult to sense things, to touch, with them on. What we do now is to let people wear one glove for a while so they get used to the feel of it. Then we add the other. Then they will accept these other changes. Transition is not always easy."

The construction equipment poses another problem, according to Kennedy, because of its age. He noted that, because Iraq has been under sanctions or at war for the past 20 years, most of the equipment is outdated. "It's held together with duct tape and baling wire," he said, "so things like back-up lights and back-up alarms don't exist. When we

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## Jumper: AEFs a success

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez  
Air Force Print News

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper told House Armed Services Committee members that while reconstitution of air expeditionary forces is not moving as quickly as expected, the concept is battle-proven.

The Air Force's highest-ranking uniformed member testified before the House of Representatives Nov. 17 on the current state of the service.

"Last February, when I sat in front of this committee, we talked about the reconstitution of our air expeditionary forces and the fact that we were in the midst of experimenting to see if the AEF concept actually worked," Jumper told more than 30 legislators. "I can report our ability to pull eight of our 10 AEFs forward to engage in major combat operations, and then reset those, has been a success."

Jumper also explained to legislators how the Air Force recently increased the AEF deployment length.

"We have (extended) our deployment time from 90 to 120 days," he said. "We have about 80 percent of our force on 120-day rotation. About 20 percent of the high-demand forces are on rotations (lasting) up to one year."

The general told committee members that while visiting deployed Airmen and troops of their sister services, he picked up on a common theme.

"I have been to Iraq and visited the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines over there," Jumper said. "The singular message I bring back from them is, 'Let's not quit

until we are done.' They believe that. They are dedicated to the mission they are engaged in over there and want to see it through."

Committee members asked about retention and recruiting numbers. Jumper said the Air Force has been very successful.

"We are enjoying excellent results in our recruiting and retention," he said. "As a matter of fact, one of the problems is that our end strength is more than it should be. We will spend the next year working down to our authorized end strength of 360,000."

Efforts to reduce the total Air Force to the authorized end strength are part of the service's force-shaping initiative. Force shaping includes reduction through retirement or separation, but it also involves moving Airmen from career fields with overages into career fields with shortages. Air Force officials have been quick to say that while they work to pare down membership, they will keep in mind the desires of those affected.

"In order to keep from breaking faith with those who want to stay in the Air Force, we are going to take most of this from our initial recruiting," Jumper said. "We have a plan to do that; I think it is going to work. I don't want to kick out any Airmen who want to stay. They have shown us great loyalty, and I want to return that loyalty to them."

Finally, Jumper commented on the departure of Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche. Roche announced his resignation Nov. 16.

"I must say I am very proud to have served with Dr. Roche during his tenure," Jumper said. "I have never seen anyone who cared more about the nation's Airmen than Dr. Roche."

## *Task Force 1-18 and ISF clothe Tikrit children*

Story and photo submitted by Task Force 1-18 Infantry

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — The 201st Iraqi National Guard Battalion, the Police's Emergency Service Unit and the 1st Infantry Division's Charlie Company, Task Force 1-18 Infantry gave children's clothing to needy families here during the second week of November.

Soldiers' family members in Germany and the United States sent the clothing to Iraq. They gathered it as part of Charlie Company's plan to donate to the poor at the conclusion of Ramadan.

The company, known as "Charlie Rock," has patrolled Tikrit since March. Tikrit, in the Sunni Triangle, was a violent city in the spring. However, throughout the summer and into the fall, Charlie Company Soldiers with their Iraqi security force partners have contributed to the relative security Iraqis now enjoy here.

The mixture of combat operations and civil-military operations like this clothing giveaway has been part of their game plan since day one. By involving the Iraqi National Guard and

Tikrit Police, Task Force 1-18 expects to generate an increased sense of trust between the people of Tikrit and their security forces, task force officials said. Additionally, they intend to show the close working relationship between the Iraqi National Guard and police.

"It's all about denying the insurgents a foothold in Tikrit," said Capt. Mark Wanish, the Task Force 1-18 targeting officer. "Rock does great job of defeating the insurgents while convincing people in Tikrit to support the coalition and the Iraqi security forces with a mix of raids, patrols and noncombat operations like this clothing giveaway."



**Iraqi National Guard soldiers and Iraqi Police officers distribute free clothing to needy families in Tikrit, Iraq, during the second week in November.**



## PERSPECTIVES

# Sometimes it's all about your perspective

**Commentary by Staff Sgt. Andeelynn Owens**

Recently I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing two Malmstrom Air Force Base non-commissioned officers who had each earned the Bronze Star medal for their courageous actions in a war zone. Not only was it amazing to hear of their accounts firsthand, but it was also a time for us to share war stories from our work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

If you talk to someone who recently returned from a deployment, he or she will have a favorite war story to tell and a "biggest lesson learned." When Master Sgt. Eric Okonski, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Andrews and I sat talking, we agreed on what we considered our biggest lesson learned in Iraq and that was, simply, perspective, or what really matters.

Let me paint a picture for you.

After more than 16 hours on your feet in 120 degree heat, you flop on your bed exhausted, thanking God that the air conditioning is working. With no immediate plans other than to down a bottle of luke-cold water and log a few hours of sleep before you have to wake up in the morning and put your body armor back on for another 16 hour day, you fall asleep.

About an hour into your slumber you're jolted awake by the bellowing of the loud speaker screaming for you to take cover because a misled insurgent decided to park his car across the Tigris River and randomly lob mortars at you, your friends and your fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

Then you sit quietly in the dark while you listen to mortar rounds land on all sides of you. You just pray that today isn't your day and try to remember if you told your mom

you loved her yesterday on the phone. Now at this point I ask you, what really matters?

From experience I can tell you that by the fourth mortar round I had long forgotten about that member of the press I could have been more cordial to the day before, and I didn't really care that I'd had chicken to eat for the last 60 days, and I didn't mind as much that I wasn't able to check my e-mail the day before. You know what really matters?

Waking up in the morning and having your friends still alive beside you.

Why does any of this matter? Because everything in life really comes down to perspective — the glass half full, half empty cliché. You can stew about things you have to do and then consequently end up with a horrible attitude, or you can step back for a minute and remember that some of our service members have been getting shot at.

A friend gave me a list of thoughts to ponder regarding perspective in different avenues of life, but this is by far my favorite: "Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."

It's really all about your perspective and how you want to embrace life. Think for a minute how much nicer it is to work with someone who approaches life "half full" rather than "half empty" and then decide what legacy you want to leave with those you know.

On the really rough days, sometimes our attitude is what saves us and gets us through until tomorrow. And just remember that it's all about your perspective.

*Editor's note:* Staff Sgt. Andeelynn Owens is assigned to the 341st Space Wing Public Affairs Office at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. She is a former member of the Iraqi

Media Engagement Team at the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad, Iraq.

## Kiljoy By Chip Beck



## Near-squashing teaches value of asking for help

**Commentary by Erin Zagursky**

With all my might, I shoved the giant mattress onto my box springs. I held my breath when I saw that the momentum wasn't enough and the monster was falling back toward me. As I was slowly being squashed by the mattress, I wondered, "Why, oh why, hadn't I asked anyone for help?"

My neighbors are nice, and I knew they wouldn't think twice about lending me a hand. I also have a lot of great co-workers who probably wouldn't have minded helping. But when I had thought of asking for assistance earlier that day, something inside of me said, "Do it yourself."

Now, as my socks slipped on the wooden floor and my squashing-by-mattress seemed imminent, I remembered the exact moment that little "do-it-yourself" voice came into being inside of me.

I was 16 and working at a local amusement park, selling drinks in plastic fruit-shaped containers. It was the end of the day, and I waited at the bottom of a hill for my supervisor to help me push my drink cart up the incline.

I waited, and waited, and waited. Finally I decided that I would find a way to do it myself. I took armloads of plastic fruits to the top of the hill until the cart was light enough for me to push.

Since that day, I've been convinced there's always a way to do things on my own. In fact, I've been quite proud of my "can-do" attitude. After all, isn't self-sufficiency a desirable trait? A sign of maturity? An adjective for job interviews?

But it's amazing how different the

world looks from the underside of a mattress. Maybe all my do-it-yourselfness over the years was more stubbornness and pride than self-sufficiency.

I still think that self-sufficiency is a sign of maturity, but I now also think that knowing when to ask for help is one, too. I don't just mean furniture-moving help. Everyone's been stuck under some kind of mattress at one time or another. Maybe you're depressed, sick or lonely, but you think you can handle your problems on your own.

The military has resources for any kind of problems you might be facing, everything from debt and marriage counseling to the chaplains who will give you a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen.

Maybe you're reading this and thinking that you honestly don't need any kind of help. Then take a look around and find where you can give it, whether it's volunteer work or just noticing a co-worker in need and lending a hand.

For those of you in leadership positions, don't be like my amusement park supervisor and leave your people waiting around for you until they decide they'll never ask for your help again.

Thankfully I was not completely squashed by my mattress that night, although my back still aches at the memory. I learned a valuable lesson as a near mattress sandwich.

Now, anyone want to help me change my oil?

*Editor's note:* Erin Zagursky is assigned to the 435th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

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**Correction:** A story on page 5 of the Nov. 19 issue of the Scimitar, "TF Vanguard and 1 ID Rock Band entertain and equip students," incorrectly identified the originator of the event and the person who helped coordinate it. Sgt. Tracy Whitelaw, a bassoon player in the band, should have been credited with initiating the event, and Sgt. 1st Class Dion Kruczek, a pianist and singer with the band, should have been credited with helping coordinate the event.

# Iraqi firefighters to get needed facilities

By Pat Jones

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Iraqi firefighters, like firefighters the world over, worry about having the right equipment for the fire they may have to fight.

Finally, after decades of neglected equipment upkeep and fire stations that were nearly in a state of collapse, these public servants are now getting modern facilities. Iraqi and multinational force leaders are investing nearly \$20 million to bring 28 fire stations up to modern standards.

“Ensuring viable public services to the Iraqi people and rebuilding the country’s infrastructure are among the key elements to help restore peace in Iraq. The fire stations are part of the overall services infrastructure that is designed to protect public safety,” said Michael Stanka, a civil engineer and project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Years of outmoded operating practices, a lack of funding, a decade of sanctions and insurgent attacks on reconstruction projects have left Iraq’s firefighting capability in dire

straits,” he said. “In many cases, fire stations are falling apart and equipment either doesn’t exist or it doesn’t work. Combine that with a lack of proper training and poor maintenance and you have all the ingredients for a disaster. This project will restore the stations to their original conditions and, in most cases, modernize them. It will also give the Iraqi people confidence in their local government’s ability to protect their property.”

In addition to helping provide fire protection, the program supports reconstruction goals by using local contractors and thereby directly supports the rebuilding of Iraq’s infrastructure, Corps officials said. It provides work for the local businesses and it puts money directly into the local Iraqi economy.

“By awarding the contracts to local companies, the program will create hundreds of jobs for the local communities,” said Stanka. “It is also important to have the local communities involved in the reconstruction, because these are their towns and cities they are rebuilding.”

Priority for which of the stations is renovated first is being determined by the local officials and the local military commander.

“It’s an issue of building trust and relationships. The local commanders are the ones dealing with community officials everyday. The local governates and the commanders work together to determine where renovations are most needed. The commanders are in a position to see where the need is the greatest and they make their decision based on those observations and the input from the local officials,” Stanka said. “Then we simply execute the contracts and ensure the work is done according to specifications.”

Of the 28 fire stations, 22 are to be renovated and six will be new buildings.

“We will provide design, construction, installation, testing, and quality control for all phases of work,” said Stanka.

Each fire house will be individually assessed for site specific reconstruction requirements. However, work will include, where necessary, new doors, windows, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, flooring, wall repairs, painting and all other repairs necessary to restore facility to a safe and functional fire station. They provide all required renovation or construction for the fire stations including administration and support areas, parking

lots and pedestrian and vehicular circulation. The work will also provide additional security, including perimeter controls, standoffs, blast protection including hardening of windows and interior controlled entry and passage.

The contractors will also prepare, grade and finish the site with drainage, paving, potable water, sewer and permanent electrical service and provide all required mechanical and electrical equipment including back-up a generator.

“In some cases, the contractor will have to demolish unsalvageable structures,” said Stanka. “This will include disposing of all waste and removal hazardous materials from site in an appropriate manner.”

One of the essential requirements for reconstruction is a lack of violence, according to Brig. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, the commander of the Corps’ Gulf Region Division.

“Since the cessation of fighting in Thawra, construction has continued on water lines, sewage systems, roads, and power lines,” said Bostick. “Additional Iraqi projects set to start include the Thalith Healthcare Center and the Sadr Fire Station.”

## Second class of skilled laborers graduates

Submitted by 1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — The Tikrit Employment Office and the 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team graduated 110 skilled laborers from their On the Job Training program Nov. 10.

Increasing employment levels throughout Iraq is of paramount importance for the success of the new Iraqi government, division officials said, and, toward that end, Bravo Company, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion has cooperated with the provincial governor to establish an on-the-job training school in Tikrit.

Students receive job-specific training in one of several fields including masonry, carpentry,

ceramics and casting, electrical and sewing. The courses last 30 days and are taught by members of the trade who are already established in the local community.

Upon graduation, students receive a certificate and \$50 toward starting their own business. The first class, composed of 110 students both male and female, recently celebrated its graduation.

School administrators boast that 70 of those students have already secured jobs. Based on the success of the program, plans are developing to expand the program to neighboring communities. There is also demand to expand into other occupational skills areas, including classes on computers, basic business and English language.

## Soldiers donate items to post workers

By Pfc. Abel Trevino

28th Public Affairs Detachment

**BALAD, Iraq** — Some Iraqi families here are better off thanks to the efforts of Soldiers from the 111th Signal Battalion

The Soldiers distributed donated assorted items to local nationals working for the Department of Public Works Nov. 10.

“It all started because we had DPW guard duty with these [local nationals] and we just kind of formed a bond with them because we see them each and every day. We created a friendship with them, and we felt like we wanted to help this group,” said Sgt. Robert Cadden, of the 111th Signal Battalion, a National Guard unit from Abbeville, S.C.

Effort and planning to distribute 400 pairs of shoes and assorted items extended from Iraq to the United States.

“[It took] a couple of weeks to get [the items] in, close to a month from the time we contacted groups back home and asked them to accumulate things and then send them over,” Cadden said.

It only took 20 minutes to pass out the many items.

“We donated shoes, miscellaneous clothing items, school supplies and some small candy and food items,” Cadden said. “We had a good response from everybody. They were excited and enthusiastic about receiving [the items].”

Local nationals were not informed of the unit’s intent to distribute clothing beforehand.

“We didn’t want to let [the workers] know in advance,” Cadden said. “There was quite a bit of confusion and pandemonium just with them know-

ing once they got on site.”

Despite the confusion and a red alert going off in the middle of the donation, everyone had an opportunity to walk away happy with something, Cadden said.

He also said that there are plans for the future to bring in more supplies to donate.

“We’ll try to keep getting stuff sent [out here] and we’ll pass it out,” said Spc. Jason Springs, a 111th Signal Soldier. “We’ll do that till we leave and, hopefully, by the time we leave, everybody will get enough stuff to take care of their [families].”

Plans are already in the works for another donation.

“We have another 200 pairs of shoes on the way. They’ll be here in the next week or two,” Cadden said.

The Soldiers said they were ecstatic to have the opportunity to help out their fellow man and accomplish the common goal of putting smiles on the faces of the DPW employees. Their efforts brought together a stronger sense of camaraderie within the unit, Springs said.

The items were donated from several churches, family support groups and local businesses near Abbeville.

Many units on post are assisting local nationals by donating supplies, building schools and medical facilities through established programs such as Operation Anaconda Neighborhood and Operation Iraqi Children, but the 111th Signal Battalion went one step further and took it upon themselves to assist local nationals they knew were helping to rebuild their own community.

## Shhhh!

Operational Security...

OPSEC

Keep cell phone and email commo free of sensitive information.

You don’t know who’s listening.





# Operation Wolfhound Power deters insurgency in Hawija

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Sean Kimmons

25th Infantry Division (Light)  
Public Affairs Office

**HAWIJA, Iraq** — Due to recent insurgent activity within this Sunni Arab city, Task Force 1-27 Infantry conducted a multiple-day offensive security operation called Operation Wolfhound Power beginning Nov. 11.

Operation Wolfhound Power was launched to root insurgents out of the city of about 85,000 residents following insurgent attacks that wounded three TF 1-27 Infantry

soldiers and 10 Iraqi National Guard troops Nov. 11 and 12.

“We’ve been trying to prevent an uprising,” said Spc. Victor Salazar, an infantryman with Company B, TF 1-27 Infantry. “We can’t search every house in Hawija, so we’re doing mounted and dismounted security patrols and searching for and detaining suspects.”

Another element TF 1-27 Infantry implemented during the offensive operations was their sniper teams.

“We’ve been fairly successful using our designated marksmen and being able to engage at longer ranges,” said Maj. Mario Diaz, the

operations officer for TF 1-27 Infantry.

The sniper teams also provided early warning and surveillance to maneuver infantry elements below their observation points.

Combat medics were heavily relied upon, too, especially during the first two days of the operation, task force officials said.

Spc. Stan Matlock, a combat medic with Company B, TF 1-27 Infantry, tended to Iraqi National Guard troops who were wounded in the insurgent attacks and to civilians caught in the crossfire.

“It was important to let [the wounded ING troops] know that we are all on the same side,” Matlock said. “It meant a lot to them to be seen by an American medic, because they’re not used to receiving high-level medical care.”

Plus, Matlock said, he built a special bond with the ING troops he treated, and they became more motivated to fight alongside him against the insurgents.

According to the Geneva Convention, U.S. Army combat medics are even supposed to provide medical care to wounded enemies, if accessible.

“We treat the guys we injure,” Matlock said. “We had a guy who threw a grenade at us, and we treated him after we lit him up. It’s something that many other armies



**Pfc. Josh Willis (lower right) and Pfc. Richard Krefft, both with Co. C, TF 1-21 Inf., provide security outside Riyadh, Iraq, as part of Operation Wolfhound Power Nov. 12.**



**Pfc. Ty Correll, an infantryman with Co. B, TF 1-27 Inf., provides rear security as his team prepares to move across a street in Hawija, Iraq, during Operation Wolfhound Power Nov. 13.**

## Charter signed at opening

Story and photo by Spc. Joe Alger  
1st Infantry Division Public Affairs

**BALAD, Iraq** — Citizens here experienced a double milestone Nov. 19 with the grand opening of the Balad Municipal Building and the signing of the Balad Municipal Charter.

“This building serves as a symbol of freedom for the entire province. It’s a place where all the people of Balad will be represented,” said Col. Randall Dragon, the 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd

Brigade Combat Team commander.

The Balad Municipal Building, which was a former Ba’ath Party headquarters, was abandoned following Operation Iraqi Freedom I. The rebuilding of it began in July and has cost roughly 100,000 dollars.

In addition to being a meeting place for both the city and district council, the building also houses a media center with a working newspaper, which distributes 3,500 copies throughout the area every month, and a radio station, which is waiting for funding.

Just as important as the opening of the building, Dragon said, was the signing of the charter.

“This is the only city I know of that has a charter like this,” he said.

The charter, which was signed by 20 original council members, was created to establish rules and guidelines for the local district. It was written up entirely by district and city council members with minimal coalition assistance.

Prior to the completion of the municipal building, the council members had been holding their meetings at the Balad Youth Center.



**Malick Mohammed of Balad becomes one of the first citizens to sign the district’s Municipal Charter at the Balad Municipal Building Nov. 19.**

## Navy announces quotas for E-4 through E-6 exams

By Lt. Kyle Raines

Office of the Chief of Naval  
Personnel Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** — The Navy released its advancement quotas for Sailors who took the E-4 through E-6 exams in September.

More than 23,000 Sailors who passed the exams will be promoted, a decrease of 0.54 percentage points in overall advancement opportunity from the March exam cycle.

“This shows our commitment to developing a more experienced, technically proficient and better educated force under the Navy’s Human Capital Strategy,” said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, the chief of Naval Personnel. “Keeping this advancement opportunity essentially constant reflects our pledge to take care of our Sailors.”

Advancement opportunity to E-4 increased from 35.82 to 36.70 percent, an increase of almost one percentage point compared to the March cycle. Advancement opportunity to E-5 was 17 percent, a decrease of 1.06 percentage points from the last cycle, while the

advancement opportunity to E-6 dropped to 13.37 percent, a decrease of 2.06 percentage points from last cycle.

The number of Sailors passing the exams increased by 2.85 percent to 108,619, and the total number of quotas available increased by 0.36 percent from March.

Thirty-six ratings increased or maintained advancement opportunity at the E-6 level when compared to the March exam cycle. Forty-three ratings declined in opportunity, but 15 of those still had advancement opportunity above the E-6 average.

Among the E-4 results, 54 ratings increased or maintained advancement opportunity level when compared to the March exam cycle with 19 showing a decline. Six of those that declined still showed an above-average advancement opportunity, however. Twenty-eight ratings showed 100 percent advancement to E-4.

A full list of advancement quotas from the September 2004 advancement exam (cycle 184) is available at [www.bupers.navy.mil/pers8/pers-81/pers-811/Cycle%20184%20Quotas.txt](http://www.bupers.navy.mil/pers8/pers-81/pers-811/Cycle%20184%20Quotas.txt).



# Al Hawija receives a steady supply of drinking water

By Spc. Brian Huckins  
411th Civil Affairs Battalion

**AL HAWIJA, Iraq** — Thanks to recently completed 411th Civil Affairs Battalion projects, the Al-Hawija region can now receive a steady supply of drinkable water.

The primary source of drinking water for the entire district comes from a plant that was built in the 1970s. Since then, almost no maintenance or replacement parts have been provided to the facility. This has led to the degradation of pumps, generators, filters and other mechanical parts.

The facility's condition was so dire that the next mechanical failure would most likely have resulted

in complete plant shutdown and loss of water to the entire city, 411th CA officials said. Under current operating conditions, less than half of the 40,000 in the city and outlying areas of Hawija were receiving water.

The water that was being delivered was sporadic at best and non-existent during dry periods. The water's poor quality made it unsafe to drink, and aging pumps had drastically reduced water pressure within the delivery system. Residents had to find alternative ways of transporting the water themselves, either by hand or by small pumps.

The civil affairs public works team was able to run a project for the rehabilitation of the water-treat-

ment plant. Working with local contractors and engineers, repairs to the old system were made. An additional one-million-gallons-per-day treatment train consisting of sedimentation basins, filters, pipes and pumps was constructed to increase capacity. USAID provided a new generator for the plant.

The system now supplies water that is cleaner and safe to drink to more than 40,000 people 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The amount of support from the community has been tremendous. A local engineer who worked on the project said that whenever he goes into the market, people always thank him for the water and a job well done.

## Combat Support Hospital opens to help Soldiers and local nationals

By Spc. Jessika Ross  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Soldiers of the 67th Combat Support Hospital celebrated the official opening of their newly renovated hospital building at Mosul Airfield during a ceremony Nov. 11.

Planning for the new hospital was started by the 21st CSH in February 2003 and was passed on to the Soldiers of the 67th CSH when they arrived in Mosul in January. The project involved a number of renovations and new construction to expand the small barracks building into a 22,701-square-foot, level-three health-care facility.

Starting with an abandoned building that had no electricity or working plumbing, the 67th spent \$72,000 on renovations and another \$380,000 on new

construction to expand the square footage.

Assisting in the rebuilding of the hospital were more than 100 local nationals.

"The pride that the local nationals can take is that they physically contributed to this hospital. We have treated a number of local nationals as well as multinational forces Soldiers by providing state-of-the-art care in northern Iraq," said Lt. Col. John Stewart, the executive officer of the 67th CSH.

The CSH has a radiology department, an emergency room, a pharmacy, an operating room and an intensive-care unit to treat both Soldiers and local nationals.

"It makes me very proud to be a member of the 67th CSH here in Mosul, being able to serve and provide combat health care to the Soldiers willingly going out there on behalf of freedom," said Stewart.



### Information, Resources, and Referrals for Concerns About:

- Mental Health/Combat Stress (Homefront and relationship issues, depression, suicidal thoughts, etc)
- Sexual Assault- (Includes Medical, Mental health, Legal, and Chaplain Services).

**www.help4soldiers.com**

OR CALL\*

Northern Iraq — DNV 302-553-9525

Central Iraq — DNV 302-558-5546

Southern Iraq — DNV 318-833-1322

\*Note: All calls are kept confidential and callers may remain anonymous

## Iraq in Brief

### Civil Military Operations Center opens in Fallujah

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** — Multinational forces established a Civil Military Operations Center in Fallujah to assist the military provincial governor of Fallujah with providing support to humanitarian-relief activities, municipal-government administration and the contracting of Iraqi companies to begin reconstruction projects.

The center opened Sunday.

The center staff will manage immediate-impact projects that provide relief assistance in the near term while planning for projects that coordinate critical repairs and reconstruction. Funding for such projects will also provide jobs and economic support in the Fallujah area.

The CMOC is staffed with reserve military personnel who possess job specialties in humanitarian assistance, municipal government, judicial court systems, reconstruction, medical support and engineering.

The CMOC currently has multiple civil affairs teams conducting assessments throughout the city. The CA teams are removing safety hazards such as rubble and standing sewage water. They are marking unsafe buildings, identifying essential-service repairs and preparing to stage humanitarian assistance supplies in the city. The provincial military governor of Fallujah receives a daily assessment brief with project priority recommendations.

A critical piece to future relief efforts will be support from various non-governmental organizations assisting with donations. NGOs seeking to assist humanitarian efforts with supplies are being directed to a central distribution site. Supplies will be further distributed throughout the city once it is determined to be safe for citizens to re-enter. It is the intent of all involved to include Iraqi companies in the distribution of stored humanitarian-assistance supplies as a means to start reemploying military-aged men. CMOC representatives will actively seek contracting bids from established trucking companies based in and around Fallujah.

Currently the Iraqi government, in coordination with civil affairs teams embedded throughout the city, are providing humanitarian services and supplies to citizens remaining in the city. Military ground commanders are allowing citizens to leave their homes during a four-hour period in the middle of the day to seek assistance. However, civil affairs officers are not seeing a high demand at this time.

There are no indications of a humanitarian crisis or shortage of relief supplies. The government and the coalition expect and are prepared for a much greater demand for humanitarian aid as residents start returning to the city.

### TF 120 and ING conduct Operation Feed the Poor

**SALAH AD DIN PROVINCE, Iraq** — Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-120 and the 209th Iraqi National Guard Battalion conducted Operation Feed the Poor in Tuz and Sulayman Bak.

TF 120 donated shoes, food and money to the city councils to be distributed to poor families. The operation was conducted in conjunction with the Festival of Aed at the end of Ramadan.

### Marines demonstrate goodwill to Iraqis

**FOB DUKE, Iraq** — Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit distributed more than \$1.1 million Monday in condolence and collateral-damage-repair payments to demonstrate goodwill to Iraqis caught in the crossfire during fighting in Najaf in August.

Payments began Sept. 30 and have resulted in a total of \$4.7 million paid to more than 8,300 Najafis since then. Payments will continue as long as needed to meet each valid case.

Condolence payments, known as solatia, are being paid to express sympathy to those injured or who lost a family member during the fighting. Collateral-damage-repair payments are intended for Iraqis who experienced damage to their home, business or other property.

Subsequently, MEU Marines continue to spend millions of dollars to contract local Iraqi businessmen and workers to repair public infrastructure damaged during the fighting.

"We're building trust with the locals by making these payments," said Col. Anthony M. Haslam, the 11th MEU commanding officer. "Since fighting ended in August, Najaf has made tremendous progress. There is little doubt that these payments have helped in that process."



# Marines train special forces



**A Marine with 4th Civil Affairs Group, Task Force Naha, 31st MEU, instructs members of the Iraqi Specialized Special Forces during a joint training exercise at Camp Korean Village, Iraq. The Marines instructed the ISSF troops in a variety of skills to prepare them for upcoming operations.**

**Story and photos by Cpl. Matthew R. Jones**  
31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Public Affairs

**CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq** — The Marines of 4th Civil Affairs Group, Task Force Naha, Regimental Combat Team 7, instructed members of the Iraqi Specialized Special Forces in the basics of patrolling in preparation for upcoming joint unit operations.

The Marines taught the ISSF weapons handling, vehicle-control checkpoints, detaining of suspects and searching procedures. In addition, the students were instructed in the basics of patrolling, the hasty defense, building searching and room clearing, said Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy F. Craig, the team chief for Team 3, Detachment 2, 4th CAG.

The Marines also took the Iraqis to the rifle range so they could become more familiar with their weapons before they are assigned to their port-of-entry forts.

"The students are motivated and willing to learn," said Craig, 34, a native of Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The Iraqis will be conducting joint missions with various Marine units throughout western Al Anbar Province once they finish the course. The course was designed to overcome the language barrier between the Marines and the ISSF.

"We teach the basic hand and arm signals, so that everyone does the same thing in a combat situation," said Craig.

The joint mission will enable the ISSF to be able work with the Marines to defend their country.

"(The patrols) will show the Iraqi people Iraqis have capabilities to do patrols and security operation themselves," said Major Carl W. Simons, the Civil Affairs Team leader for 4th CAG.

The ISSF came to Camp Korean Village after a two to four week boot camp where they were taught the basics of being a soldier in the new Iraqi Armed Forces.

Once the ISSF got to the camp, the Marines of 4th



**Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy F. Craig, the team chief for the 4th Civil Affairs Group, Task Force Naha, Regimental Team 7, observes as an Iraqi trainee searches Gunnery Sgt. Kevin L. Zuroski, the information operations chief for Task Force Naha, 31st MEU, during training.**

CAG began to teach them the course.

"The course was designed to allow the (ISSF) to integrate into Marine operations (easily)," said Simons, 42, a native of Canton, Mass.

The course also provides the ISSF with a better understanding of military techniques necessary to defend the borders of Iraq, he said.

The Iraqis have done well at the course and are eager to begin to defend their native land, said Simons.

# Marines reopen infamous Fallujah bridge

**Story and photo by**  
**Lance Cpl. Miguel A. Carrasco Jr.**  
I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** — U.S. Marines with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, took their first steps across an infamous Fallujah bridge Nov. 14 during its reopening. This accomplishment marked a significant victory in Fallujah for the battalion.

It was the first time the bridge has been open since the bodies of two U.S. civilian contractors were hung from its superstructure. The civilians, along with two other contractors were captured by Iraqi insurgents, were mutilated and dragged through the city March 31.

Seven months later, at the request of the Interim Iraqi Government, Marines and Iraqi security forces fought their way through the city in support of Operation Phantom Fury.

Taking control of the bridge was a big event for the Marines in support of Operation Phantom Fury, according to Maj. Todd S. Des Grosseilliers, the executive officer for 3/5. It's where the insurgents hung the Blackwater Security Consulting employees, which was a major reason for the April uprising.

The Marines pushed through the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah to secure the area around the bridge. The bridge, which spans the Euphrates River, is located in the heart of Fallujah and connects the city to the peninsula.

"It's symbolic because the insurgents closed the bridge and we reopened it," said Des Grosseilliers, 41, a native of



**A U.S. Marine with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, walks on an infamous bridge in Fallujah, Iraq, during its reopening Nov. 14. It was the first time the bridge had been open since the bodies of two U.S. civilian contractors were hung from it. The civilians, along with two other contractors were captured by Iraqi insurgents, were mutilated and dragged through the city March 31.**

Auburn, Maine.

Although the battle for Fallujah is reaching its final stages, the battalion continues to wipe out pockets of resistance, clear homes and discover weapons caches in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"For the Marines this was a major victory, it was one step closer to securing the city of Fallujah," said Des Grosseilliers.





The Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicles and M113 armored personnel carriers of the 2nd "Ghost" Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cav. Div., prepare to roll out of Assembly Area Otter, just outside Fallujah, to begin the assault on the city the evening of Nov. 8.



Spc. David Bednar, a communications specialist for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cav. Div., monitors the radio for the company commander while standing at the rear of an armored personnel carrier in Fallujah Nov. 10.

# Ghost Battalion leads Fallujah fight

Story and photos by Spc. Erik LeDrew  
122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** — The Ghost Battalion's mission: pave the way into Fallujah and secure the last insurgent stronghold in Iraq.

On the night of Nov. 8, Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment descended in droves and pushed their way into Fallujah, securing the city and spearheading the mission for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Our mission was to penetrate the enemy defenses in Fallujah to allow for two Marine [regimental combat teams] to enter the city," said Maj. Scott Jackson, the executive officer for 2-7 Cav.

The famous Ghost Battalion cemented its place in the history of the war in Iraq and has been central to success in Baghdad and Najaf prior to becoming the main effort in Fallujah. Based on its prior track record, it is apparent the Ghost Battalion was the Marine's battalion of choice.

"The 1st Marine Division specifically asked for us because of our reputation," said 1st Sgt. Larry Hudnall, the first sergeant for Company C, 2-7 Cav. "And Marines never specifically ask for a unit's help."

As the Air Force was busy bombarding the city and weakening the insurgent defenses, 2-7 Cav started staging their Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicles, Abrams tanks and armored person-

nel carriers to take the fight to the streets.

The Ghost Battalion began its assault on Fallujah just after 7 p.m.

Under the cover of darkness, three companies from 2-7 Cav breached insurgent defenses by plowing through a railway station on the outskirts of Fallujah's Joulwan District.

The Soldiers secured the railway station and pushed into the city, continuing their fight while artillery, mortars and air assets continued pounding other parts of the city.

According to Jackson, after the Ghost troopers completed their initial mission by successfully securing a major thoroughfare into Fallujah, the 2-7 Cav Soldiers continued to push further into the city, conducting operations to destroy the insurgents.

"We've been doing screening missions along [a main thoroughfare], patrolling it in order to allow the battalion access to its objectives in the city," Hudnall, a Killeen, Texas native, said. "We've also been doing mounted combat patrols in our sector, or what we call 'gun runs,' which allow us to get assessments of enemy positions in our sector."

In addition to the damage that was done by the battalion's Bradleys and tanks, the 2-7 infantry troops had to dismount to search and clear buildings and houses, as well as to engage the enemy on foot.

"Our guys are doing a great job in the fight," Jackson said. "They've certainly handed out more than they were given."

By Nov. 12, insurgents were surrendering in droves, waving improvised white flags. Elements of the new Iraqi military were escorted into the city to clear all of the houses and buildings and were also tasked to apprehend the countless insurgent detainees.

"It's a good thing that we're getting all of these [insurgents] out of here," said Spc. Michael Haggerty, of Comanche Co., 2-7 Cav., and a Cape May, N.J., native. "This is the last insurgent stronghold in Iraq, so the country will be much better off after this city is secured."

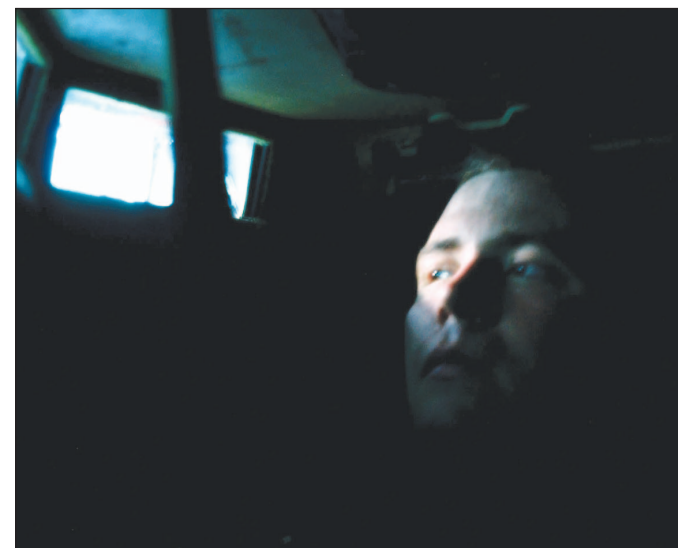
By the end of the first week of the fight, the majority of the city had been overtaken by either 2-7 Cav or the Marine regiments that entered Fallujah in the Ghost Battalion's wake.

Hudnall said it is still too early to determine if the overall operation was a complete success.

"This is the last great battle in Iraq," Hudnall said. "I really think our level of success here in Fallujah will be determined in the future, when they hold their own elections."



Spc. Rene Romain, of Comanche Co., 2-7 Cav., 1st Cav. Div., carries an old machine gun captured in a raid on an insurgent's house in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 11.



Spc. Michael Haggerty, of Comanche Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cav. Div., peers out of the rear periscopes of a Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicle while his squad was preparing to go on a "gun run" to assess enemy positions in his company's sector of Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 11.



An Army engineer bulldozer demolishes a building used by insurgents in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 11 while a Bradley Armored Fighting Vehicle provides security.



# Organizations make supporting deployed troops easier than before

By Samantha L. Quigley  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — One often-repeated question from forward-deployed troops today is some form of: “Does America support what we’re doing over here?”

Judging by the number of Web sites devoted to that support, the answer is a resounding, “Yes!”

But as times have changed, so have the ways to support the troops. Just because the old way — no more “Any Servicemember” mail — doesn’t work anymore, that doesn’t mean that troops can’t receive mail and care packages from patriotic souls. It simply means finding an organization to help you get that morale-boosting mail to the troops.

Dozens of independent organizations are ready and willing to help those who want to support the troops. They generally fall into two basic categories. The first is the organizations that collect cash or goods to create

care packages to be sent to troops who wish to receive them.

One such organization is Freedom Calls Foundation, which uses state-of-the-art communications technology to keep service members connected with their families. Because of Freedom Calls’ efforts, service members have “been there” for milestone events such as weddings (sometimes their own), births and graduations.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars offers a program called “Operation Uplink” that connects service members with family and friends. The program, begun in 1996, provides prepaid phone cards to active-duty service members and hospitalized veterans.

Another supporter of deployed U.S. troops, the United Service Organizations, has a program called “Operation USO Care Package.” The program lets well-wishers sponsor a care package for a monetary donation. USO makes the donation part easy, too. All it takes is a mouse click, a phone call or a stamp to

mail a check.

The second type organization pairs supporters with service members who have given permission to release their contact information to an individual. Most of the sites offering service member “adoptions” require a minimum commitment of one piece of mail a month.

AdoptaPlatoon not only provides the means to “adopt” an individual service member but an entire platoon. The requirements for each adoption are a little different. Supporters can also ask to be matched with a service member as a pen pal.

Operation Military Pride is another group that focuses on care packages. However, to obtain mailing information for a service member, supporters are required to sign up through the site. Like many organizations, Operation Military Pride has several different campaigns in the works to support deployed troops.

There also are a smaller number of Web sites dedicated to allowing a supporter to

send an electronic greeting to service members and some that have compiled a list of links to various support Websites.

Care packages are always nice, but letters are just as good. And sites like Operation Dear Abby and Letters From Home make that very easy to do. Operation Dear Abby provides the means to send an electronic greeting to a service member and Letters From Home works with the old-fashioned variety.

If the legitimacy of a site is a concern, check out the list on the Defend America Web site. While the Department of Defense does not endorse organizations, a DoD official said that the groups listed on Defend America are checked routinely to make sure they are doing what they say they are.

These are just a small sampling of organizations that offer Americans the means to remember and appreciate our troops. There are many, many groups offering many, many ways to show deployed troops that yes, America supports you.

## SAFETY *Continued from Page Three*

do use equipment like that, we have spotters whose sole job is to watch where that thing is going and say, ‘Hold it!’ So yes, we have some standards that are less stringent than the States, but they are realistic. And we enforce them.”

The Iraqi general contractor’s site superintendent, Rasheed, agrees with Jamal about the safety concerns and the way to enforce the standards. Before working at the site, Rasheed had gone to Baghdad and observed the safety procedures that the Corps and TtFW were enforcing on their Ministry of Trade project, according to Kennedy.

“The guys up there showed him around and said, ‘This is how we do it,’” he said. “They showed him the safety ropes, a hardhat and gloves and told him what they were for. He knew when he came down here that, yes, we are serious and this is how we do it. That was a big help. I have found that if you have English-speaking Americans hounding them about safety all the time, as soon as we leave the site, they’d stop doing it. But because we’ve got some of the local people involved, it is working.”

The Iraqi general contractor created a person-

al-protective-equipment sign, according to Kennedy, to demonstrate the commitment of the Americans to safety procedures. Written in English, Arabic and symbolic language, it demonstrates the firm’s dedication to keeping the workplace safe.

“I was so proud of our GC for doing that,” he said. “He has embraced our safety culture. He is the key to our success. He went and bought the hard hats. Once they realize you are serious, they’ll embrace it. It just takes a while.”

Kalisz added that frequent meetings with the local labor force also contribute greatly to the

projects’ safety.

“One of the best ways to impart that information is by way of explanation,” he said. “We try to do it on a personal level. We say, ‘If you work without safety equipment, you will get hurt. We care about you and don’t want that to happen. If you are hurt, you can’t work and support your family.’ If you tell a person why you are requiring safety standards and put it in terms of taking care of the family, it works. Family is very tight-knit here. That’s one of the things I really enjoy about this culture. The people are very respectful of their elders, and I like that.”

## FALLUJAH *Continued from Page Two*

unheard of and inconceivable two or three years ago in Afghanistan.”

Smith acknowledged that elements seeking to derail the democratic process in Iraq are conducting a “very effective” intimidation campaign.

“We see it permeate many levels of the Iraqi government and the Iraqi security forces,” he said. “You’re seeing more of it daily as we see decapitated bodies in Mosul and other places. And it’s that part that we have got to be able to handle and take that away from them, so that people can freely get out with some level of reasonable risk to vote and not go back and expect their families to be killed just because they go out and vote. And it’s going to take a certain level of courage on the part of the Iraqis, just like there was on the part of the Afghans.”

The general said the successful Afghanistan presidential election is encouraging, but he would not rule out trouble in the way ahead.

“We are very optimistic, I would say, with some guardedness, only because we’re not sure

what the Taliban will do next,” he explained. “We think they suffered a very large defeat — actually, we know they suffered a very large defeat — just by virtue of the fact that elections occurred. And how they will respond to that failure remains to be seen, but we’re concerned that in the run-up to the elections for the lower and upper house currently scheduled for the spring — that we will see an increased level of violence, in an effort to try and stop those elections from occurring.”

Smith spoke of the pride and dedication the Afghan people showed as the election process unfolded.

“And we are hoping that we, at some point in time, can generate the same level of commitment to this in Iraq that we had in Afghanistan, although I will admit, given the security situation there right now and the intimidation and harassment campaigns that are going on, it will be difficult,” he said. “But we’re continuing to move down that road towards elections in January, and then looking to elections in Afghanistan in the spring.”

## PAVE *Continued from Page Five*

However, the raid, staged after Friday prayers, “could have been timed better,” the official said. “We still have after-action critiquing to do,” he added.

He said skirmishes following the incident in several areas of the city “have calmed down.” News reports said insurgents armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades attacked U.S. and Iraqi troops in several Sunni areas of the city.

The defense official said U.S. forces use the utmost of care once senior leaders make the call that it’s necessary to attack a mosque. “We work hard to only take out the enemy” and to inflict as little damage as possible, the official said.

“An example would be a sniper in a minaret,” he said. “Instead of putting a 500-pound bomb in the mosque itself, we would put a Hellfire (air-to-ground missile) or main gun tank round in the minaret so we could limit the destruction.”

The official acknowledged that this cautious approach may have added to the coalition’s casualty toll. “In many cases, we may have taken additional casualties trying to take a mosque with ground forces instead of destroying it,” he said.

When necessary, however, he acknowledged that the U.S. military has “dropped some munitions on mosques when they have lost their protected status.”

In Fallujah, the same mosques previously used by insurgents to stage attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces now are being used to distribute humanitarian supplies to local citizens returning to their homes.

Public-address systems in the mosques the insurgents had used to inflame the city now are being used by U.S. and Iraqi forces to urge the last enemy holdouts in the city to surrender and to get word out to residents about the availability of food, water and medical supplies, the official said.



# 545th MPs teach, mentor Iraqi Police

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Bill Putnam  
122nd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Like many cities trying to curb violence in the United States, Iraq has instituted a curfew.

Staff Sgt. Chad Cook, a military police squad leader in the 1st Cavalry Division's 1st Platoon, 545th Military Police Company, sat in an Iraqi police chief's office Nov. 11 and explained how the newly imposed national curfew would work.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi imposed a national 60-day curfew just after the attack on Fallujah started. Everyone had to be indoors by 10:30 p.m. or they would be arrested.

The IPs had some questions for Cook about the curfew, such as what could they do if they caught someone violating the curfew.

"Search them and the car. If they have no legitimate business, they get one warning," Cook said. He added that people will be arrested if they are caught again.

Every day, different elements of the 545th MPs head out to IP sta-

tions throughout Baghdad's Al Rashid District. It's a fun and interesting job for many of them, but it's not without hazards.

Advising the Iraqi Police is the biggest reason for being out at the stations, some of the MPs in Cook's squad said.

"It's good that we're out here," said Spc. Hector Cerna, a 545th MP Soldier. "[The IPs] like that we're working with them, training with them and giving them classes when we can."

Because both he and the IPs are policemen, Cerna said he really likes going out and working with them.

"Me as an MP and them as IPs, we pretty much have the same job," he said.

Cerna said the IPs aren't afraid. They'll fight back when they're attacked, he said, and, more importantly, they want to get out and take the streets back from the insurgents and terrorists.

"They want their country back, and they want their freedom," Cerna said.

Back at Fort Hood, Texas, the unit trained for operations and missions like this one, said Cerna. The company is applying their training here in a real-world situation and there's a lot of satisfaction in that, he noted.

"So it's good to help them and come out here and say, 'Hey, this is what we know,'" Cerna said. "We teach them and a lot of them put it to use."

The teaching Cerna talked about includes patrolling techniques, field



**Spc. Marcus White, a military police Soldier with the 545th Military Police Company, waits to leave Camp Al Saqr in Baghdad's Al Rashid District.**

interrogation and the searching of vehicles and personnel.

Although she doesn't work directly with the IPs very often, Fuentes said she's seen the IPs improve since she arrived here from Fort Hood.

"Up until the last couple of weeks, the platoon really hasn't seen too much contact so far," Fuentes said. That changed around Nov. 1, when the insurgents started taking notice of them.

They said they weren't sure why things became more active for them. Maybe it was Ramadan or perhaps

that their luck had just run out. As Cpl. William McDaniel and Fuentes pulled guard duty at an Iraqi Police station in Al Rashid, they contemplated why the platoon's first seven months in Baghdad were as quiet as a church mouse. In a two-week period in early November, events took a 180-degree turn.

They've been hit by improvised explosive devices and shot at while on patrol or on station.

"We don't normally look for trouble," Fuentes said. "But it definitely looks for us."



**Cpl. William McDaniel, a military police Soldier in the 545th Military Police Company, patrols with another MP at an Iraqi Police station in Baghdad, Iraq's, Al Rashid District.**



**Spc. Kyle Mostad of the 747th Postal Company, an Army Reserve unit from Helena, Mont., fills out a customs form for a package that a Soldier is mailing to family in the United States.**

## You've got mail

Story and photo by Spc. Jessika Ross  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** — Each Soldier has an important job that helps the rest of the Army stay fully operational. For some, it's repairing vehicles, conducting patrols or, for the 747th Postal Company, an Army Reserve unit from Helena, Mont., it's delivering morale.

For many Soldiers serving away from home, receiving mail from friends and family can be the biggest perk of the day.

"I feel like we have an important job. It's an important part of the Army. We are the Soldiers' link back to their homes and families," said Spc. Daniel Frost, a mail clerk in the 747th.

Frost and fellow mail clerk Spc. Kyle Mostad spend their time sorting, hauling, delivering and collecting mail for all of the Soldiers serving with Task Force Olympia in northern Iraq. During any given day, the postal company receives around 11,000 pounds of mail and collects up to 6,000 pounds of mail to send back to the United States and

other parts of the world, said Frost.

"Getting mail from friends and loved ones at home is something that a Soldier can look forward to. Things in Iraq are constantly changing and so many of the things around us are unfamiliar, getting a letter from someone at home is comforting because it's from someone who is familiar to you," said Staff Sgt. Tony Edwards, the civil affairs non-commissioned officer in charge for Task Force Olympia.

The 747th replaced the 175th Postal Company, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) in late October and its Soldiers are learning what it means to be a postal Soldier in Iraq.

Teams from the 747th must convoy several times a week to the many forward operating bases in northern Iraq to collect packages Soldiers are sending home and to deliver mail sent to the Soldiers.

"It makes me feel good to do what we are doing. Even though we have just a small role in the big picture, I know we make a difference in the Soldier's day-to-day lives," said Mostad.



# Civil affairs Soldiers, MPs team up to help Iraqis

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Christopher Land  
Scimitarstaff

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Some U.S. Army Soldiers are helping Iraqi amputees get a leg – and, in some cases, an arm – up on life.

In the basement of the 1st Cavalry

Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team headquarters on Camp Grey Wolf in the International Zone here, a team of Soldiers is fitting Iraqi amputees with prosthetic devices.

The Soldiers have fitted approximately 60 amputees with devices that will help them go about their day-to-day lives with more independence; many of the patients are Iraqi veterans of the Iran-Iraq War.

"This whole lab is a testament to the ingenuity of the American Soldier," said Capt. Rob Edwards, who handles logistics and paperwork for the team and is the intelligence officer for the 112th Military Police Battalion, a National Guard unit from Canton, Mississippi. He's also a detective with the Tupelo, Miss., Police Department.

Sgt. Chris Cummings, a Reserve Soldier and an orthotics and prosthetics technician, makes devices like the ones the team is supplying to the Iraqi amputees in his civilian career in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The civil affairs specialist, who arrived in Iraq in February with the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion from Miami, extended for nine months with the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, a Rhode Island-based unit.

"I'm lucky that the 1st Cavalry finds this mission important enough to



**Capt. Steve Lindsley, a certified prosthetics practitioner, grinds a test socket for a better fit for an Iraqi amputee in a prosthetics lab in the basement of the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.**



**Capt. Steve Lindsley, a certified prosthetics practitioner, fits a prosthetic arm on Ali, a former Iraqi airborne trooper who lost his arm in the Iran-Iraq War. Lindsley is part of a team of Soldiers working to outfit Iraqi amputees with prosthetic devices.**

let me do it full time," Cummings said.

Cummings, who has been making devices for a dozen years, said he got into the field because he enjoys working with his hands. He said he stays in it because of the fulfillment it brings.

"The benefit is helping people," he said, "and you can see it so much more over here than back home."

Baghdad, a city of approximately five million people, has two facilities that make prosthetic and orthotic devices, Cummings explained. Fort Lauderdale, a city with about a fifth of Baghdad's population, has approximately 25.

Cummings wrote up the equipment list for the lab, which will be passed to the Al Wasiti Hospital in Baghdad's Karada District. The hospital has a lab that currently does bracing of injured limbs and rehabilitation, mainly for congenital foot defects, Cummings said, and it has a hand clinic.

"When we get done, they'll be able to do prosthetics," he said.

Capt. Steve Lindsley, the logistics officer for the 112th MPs, holds a certification from Northwestern University's Prosthetics Practitioner Certification Program. In his

civilian life, he works for the Mississippi Methodist Rehabilitation Center's Monroe, La., facility. Lindsley's civilian employer has sent supplies for the Baghdad lab, and FedEx ships them for free.

Those supplies, and the combined experience, training and dedication of Lindsley, Cummings and Edwards, are helping Iraq citizens to better lives.

Nazar Abdulwahad, a former Iraqi soldier who lost his leg to cannon and mortar fire in 1985 in the Iran-Iraq War, said the prospect of getting a new prosthetic leg has him optimistic.

"If I am comfortable with it, I can do anything," he said.

The team of U.S. Soldiers spends time and effort to ensure that he and the other recipients of prosthetics are comfortable with their new devices by fitting, trimming, shaping and refitting until the fit is optimized.

"I've never done anything like this before," said Edwards, a Memphis, Tenn., native who is getting on-the-job training in prosthetic devices from Cummings and Lindsley. "It's extremely rewarding, and very humbling, and it's comforting to know that if something happens, all is not lost."

## Partners in patriotism: The flag that flies in the heart

By Spc. J. Tashun Joycé  
Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Just minutes prior to the demolition of the statue of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad's Firdus Square, an excited Marine corporal draped the Stars and Stripes over the head of the statue in one of the most memorable moments at the start of the war.

After a moment of celebration compared to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Iron Curtain by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, controversy soon arose.

To show that our nation's troops were not conquerors but liberators assisting the Iraqi people in their time need, a ban prohibiting the display of the American flag on vehicles, statues, buildings and command posts was soon enacted.

Though all service members, contractors and other U.S. government employees comply with the flag restrictions, a small few have found other ways to display their patriotism without breaking the rules.

One of Old Glory's faithful is Belleville, Ill., native Tom

Shively, a Defense Logistics Agency customer-service representative. Shively served 26 years in the Air Force before retiring as a colonel in Battle Creek, Mich., with his wife, Barb, and sons Sean and Todd.

"My family has a strong support of the military," said Shively. "All three of my brothers have served."

Shively said that he had planned to fly his flag when he arrived in theater Aug. 11, but since he isn't allowed to, he decided to take the flag wherever he went. After partnering up with coworker and Texas native Maj. Troy Neasbitt, he purchased more flags for troops to take out with them on missions.

"Between [us], we get them in the hands of troops along with a disposable camera so they can take photos with the flag on their mission," said Shively. "My plan is to give my family members a flag and a story for each picture."

The flag represents all we hold dear and true, said Neasbitt. It is the standard for the world. "When I see the flag, I get a sense of pride and it fills my heart with pride to know I am an American," he said.

"I can still remember seeing films of the Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima, and I thought what pride those men

must have felt to sacrifice so much to get to that hill and raise our flag and how hard they fought and the sacrifice in lives it took," said Neasbitt. "They believed in America with all their hearts, and they rallied around our flag just as we do today, here in Iraq."

Shively said he is proud of the United States and what the flag represents.

"My wife and everyone I know back home thinks what Tom is doing is great," said Neasbitt. "He is the real hero, not me. I'm just trying to help him out as best I can. We could not ask for a better man to be here supporting our efforts in Iraq. All of the former service members working over here who continue to sacrifice and serve are doing an outstanding and critical job. I thank each and every one for their efforts."

Coming to Iraq to help the Iraqi people achieve democracy was the right thing to do, Shively said. He intends to continue sending flags throughout Iraq until he leaves.

"It's important that my family knows this is not about me," said Shively. "There are a lot of troops putting their necks on the line, both American and coalition. This represents all of their service."



# Soldiers form bonds of brotherhood

**Story and photo by Spc. Al Barrus**  
122nd Mobile Public  
Affairs Detachment

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** — It's a cool morning in the streets of Fallujah. A once lively city lays barren. An avenue that housed pedestrians and traffic shows no movement, except for a few alley cats.

A squad of Bradley Fighting Vehicles lines the outside of an abandoned home. It bears little damage relative to adjacent houses.

Inside the dilapidated building rest the battle-hardened Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. While some play cards or try to tune into a radio station, others rest after a week of intense battle.

One Soldier reflects on an experience he knows he will never forget.

Pfc. Jose Becerra drives a Bradley and chauffeured a squad of his comrades through the streets of this ghost town before it was one.

"My platoon sergeant told me when this first started that we are going to experience some different feelings," he said. "He was right. You get depressed and angry. It was like that in Najaf and here, too."

In August, his unit helped clear Najaf, Iraq, of the insurgents that had claimed it for their own. But Najaf couldn't prepare them for what they would see three months later in Fallujah.

"We showed up, and we were surprised," he said. "There was no way Najaf could prepare us for what we saw. You're getting

attacked from every which way, and these insurgents here knew what they were doing."

Becerra's company, Apache Company, was highly trained, battle-ready and they fought well. They did, however, lose one of their friends. The company took it hard, he said.

"My friend is always telling us, 'Smile now, cry later,' meaning we've got to do what we've got to do now; we can cry later," he said. "We have to continue the mission. We can't stop and grieve when we lose someone. We have to keep going. We will have our time to cry."

It was that attitude that kept the rest of the company alive, he said. And the experiences they had together not only made them better warriors, it also made the guys grow to trust each other.

"In the infantry, we are family. We live together, fight together," Becerra said. "That guy sitting next to you in the Bradley, he's not just your buddy, he's your brother. It's not just like high school where your friends will back you in a fight or something. In battle, you learn who your true friends are."

Becerra, a 23-year-old Mercedes, Texas, native said his time in Iraq has built bonds that he never knew were possible.

"When you're back at Fort Hood, you see lot of these guys and just think, 'Oh, he's just a guy in my platoon,'" he said as he pointed to a troop across the hall. "When you get here and you fight along side them, you know that you both want to make it home alive; you're brothers with that stranger now."



**Troops lie on blankets in a house in Fallujah as they rest after a week of battle. The building now serves as Apache Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, headquarters.**

Even though Becerra's enlistment date in the Army has passed, he said he doesn't regret being in Iraq.

"Three days ago I was supposed to be out of the Army," he said. "I don't mind, though. I'm where I need to be. I need to watch out for my brothers and make sure they make it home safe."

As for Becerra and his platoon of brothers, he may or may not stay in the Army with them when he gets back home.

"I'm not sure if I want to re-enlist when I get back or not," he said. "I know one thing for sure, though. None of these guys here, we won't forget about each other or the things we went through together."

## British officer serves with American unit

**By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin**  
10th Mountain Division Public Affairs

**CAMP AL TAHREER (LIBERTY), Iraq** — On an average sweltering summer's day here, an intercom in the tactical operation center screeched in preparation for an announcement.

"Attention in the TOC," the voice said in a thick British accent. "The daily (order) is now posted. God save the queen."

The voice belonged to Maj. John Wright, a British plans officer with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Wright's diverse experience with both British and American militaries makes him a valuable asset to the plans team.

Wright volunteered to work with American forces through an exchange program with the United Kingdom and the United States. He and his wife and three children moved to Fort Drum, N.Y., and Wright began working for the 10th Mountain Division. He served in Afghanistan training the Afghan National Army. There he met and worked for Col. Mark Milley, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team commander. When 2nd BCT received confirmation that they were going to Iraq, Milley requested that Wright come with them. Wright enthusiastically agreed.

"I knew we were doing good things in Iraq, and I wanted to be a part of it," Wright said. "I wanted to see the world's

superpower at work."

Wright is no stranger to combating terrorism. Aside from serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, he also served as a company commander in Northern Ireland. Wright said the United Kingdom has a common cause with the United States in the war on terrorism.

"It's not just the United State's war. It is a war against terrorism," he said. "We had potential terrorist attacks in the UK. They were fortunately stopped. We are just as much a target. Everyone in the free world has to assume responsibilities for their freedom."

Wright said he enjoys working with American Soldiers. Sgt. Matthew Crowder, a plans noncommissioned officer, said 2nd BCT has also enjoyed and benefited from Wright's expertise.

"He gives us a different perspective," Crowder said. "He gives us a different way to look at a problem other than the traditional plans process. When we reach a road block, having an outside view gets you thinking about a different way to view things."

Wright's personality, especially his dry humor, is also a welcome relief from the daily pressures of a combat zone, said Staff Sgt. Robert Ross, the plans noncommissioned officer in charge.

"He's a very good guy," Ross said. "He's very lighthearted. He keeps the stress level down in stressful times."

"The stories he tells really lighten the mood," Crowder added. "But when it comes down to work, he's all business."



Courtesy photo

He makes sure the mission is accomplished. He's a very hard worker who is tireless in how he tackles projects."

Wright also said his American counterparts are learning to deal with his "quirks and eccentricities," referring to sayings and mannerisms foreign to Americans.

"He says regular British sayings, slang terms that most people don't understand that we now understand," Crowder said.

"They're basically all dirty," Ross said about the new slang terms Wright taught his fellow Soldiers. "If we didn't see James Bond movies, we'd have no idea what he was saying."

Despite differences in language and culture, Wright said American and British Soldiers share similar work ethics and beliefs.

"They're enthusiastic, dedicated and professional Soldiers," Wright said. "Our countries are very similar. I enjoyed working with our allies. It's been a worthwhile experience. It was good to be here, a great opportunity. I made some good friends."

Crowder agreed that working with Wright was a rewarding experience. The combined effort of coalition forces will also reap benefits for both sides, he said.

"Working hand-in-hand shows it wasn't just the U.S. fighting alone," Crowder said. "It's reassuring that even in the hard times, we have someone watching our backs."

Wright said British and American forces have the same intentions in Iraq — they want to create a safe and secure environment for the people of Iraq to thrive in.

"We're doing the right thing," Wright said. "We do it for the Iraqi people to have a chance to prosper in peace without fear. We're sincere in our efforts. If we don't follow through (in Iraq), there will be anarchy. A rouge state would be created. We have to succeed here."



# Soldiers keep supply trucks on the road

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Fred Minnick  
139th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**MOSUL, Iraq** — On the Iraq-Turkey border, thousands of trucks come through the Habur gate border crossing as they travel between the two countries.

So many trucks wait to enter Iraq or Turkey on a daily basis that the main route is often backed up as far as 50 miles with bumper-to-bumper traffic.

Some trucks carry supplies for Iraqi and Turkish businesses. Others haul construction materials, fuel and food for multinational forces in northern Iraq.

All the trucks must pass through Iraqi or Turkish customs before entering the country of their respective destination. In addition, every truck carrying multinational forces supplies is documented, manifested and checked out by Soldiers from the 99th Transportation Detachment Movement Control Team, based out of Aviano Air Force Base in Aviano, Italy.

"We are responsible for making sure the supplies coming in from Turkey make their way into Iraq," said Capt. Curtis Johnson, the commander of the 99th Trans. Det. MCT. "We have an important job, and our Soldiers do an excellent job ensuring everything goes smoothly."

From June to October, 7,267 trucks crossed the Iraqi border carrying multinational forces supplies. The 99th Soldiers stage these trucks in an area known as "the yard," which is on the Iraqi side of the border and is approximately the size of 10 football fields. Once there, the movement-control-team Soldiers ensure that each truck is prepared to make the long, intense drive into Iraq. The fortified yard is heavily guarded by Iraqi National Guard soldiers, and between 100 and 200 trucks are processed each day, said Spc. Darline Davis, a transportation management coordinator with the 99th from Miami.

With the help of Iraqi customs officials, the 99th Soldiers ensure that the trucks have enough fuel and are properly loaded. They also try to address any security or transportation concerns the truckers have.

Johnson said his team of 12 has faced several challenges since their deployment began in August, including a 10-day

trucker strike.

"All in all, the truckers are great people and enjoy their jobs," Johnson said. "We have an agreement with the drivers that every convoy carrying supplies to Iraq will be escorted by military vehicles. This eases their security concerns quite a bit."

Davis or another transportation-management coordinator will link the truckers up with their escorts and give military personnel a copy of the manifest.

"It's really not that hard of a job," said Davis, who has processed as many as 300 trucks in one day. "You just have to get down to business."

When Davis hands over the manifest to the escorts, her job is done. At that point, the truck drivers are in the hands of their escorts. As a member of the 445th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Iowa, Spc. Ryan Loomis of Wadena, Iowa, often escorts the trucks to multinational forces bases and said the drivers will not move into Iraq without a multinational forces presence.

"It's a personal reward to take these trucks with our supplies to the bases around the country," he said. "I especially take pride in getting the drivers to their destination safely."

Alladin Turok, an Iraqi truck driver, has made several trips from Turkey to Iraq and back. He said he always looks forward to seeing his "American friends, who have always been so kind to me. I am proud to be doing my job and do not understand why the terrorists are against us. We are just trying to help Iraq."



**Above:** A Soldier from the 99th Transportation Detachment Movement Control Team talks to an Iraqi truck driver who's sitting atop his truck. The 99th tracks and manifests all trucks moving supplies into Iraq from Turkey and back.

**Below:** Thousands of trucks await passage into Iraq from Turkey. More than 7,000 trucks carried multinational forces' supplies into Iraq from June to October.



**An Iraqi customs worker looks at the documentation and validation of two truck drivers carrying supplies into Iraq from Turkey.**



**Spc. Darline Davis talks to Iraqi truckers to see if they need help fixing their vehicle. A member of the 99th Transportation Detachment Movement Control Team, Davis works with the truckers moving cargo for multinational forces and helps them get to their final destination.**



**Spc. Darline Davis checks for fuel in an Iraqi truck that is transporting supplies to Iraq from Turkey. Davis, a member of the 99th Transportation Company Detachment Movement Control Team, works with truckers to ensure that they are prepared to drive into Iraq.**



# Tones of home still ring loud for mechanic

Story and photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

**BALAD, Iraq** — Dust covered tan desert camouflage uniform, sharp eyes and a calm demeanor, he looks like every Soldier here.

But beneath the surface, there's something that stands out, something unique and distinctive about Spc. Bert W. James.

James is Native American, a full-blooded Navajo, and he carries his culture with pride.

James, a mechanic with the Fort Lewis, Wa. based 29th Signal Battalion at Logistics Support Area Anaconda here, spoke softly, calmly, about his childhood and growing up on a reservation in Arizona. He joked about his hair — he has a natural blond widow's peak — and spoke about his family and about war. He talked briefly about his grandfathers and an uncle influencing him when he decided to join the Army. Most importantly, James spoke about his heritage.

"[Back home] the elderly still believe in the old ways," James said.

When James talks about the old ways of home in Kayenta, Ariz. — in the middle of a reservation — he refers to the traditional Navajo lifestyle. He said that some of the elders still live without running water and electricity in mud huts. For the people James grew up with, life had changed and pop culture had infused itself enough to allow him to grow up no differently than American children in every suburb across the country.

"I could go out and scrape my knees and get in trouble like every other red-blooded American kid. I could always turn to reading," James said. "I did pretty much what every child did."

James said he basically grew up at his grandmother's house, and she was the one who taught him his Navajo culture.

"My grandmother was a huge influence," James said. "She was a firm believer in edu-



**Spc. Bert W. James, a mechanic with 29th Signal Battalion, is full-blooded Navajo from Kayenta, Ariz. James grew up on a reservation and joined the military, following in the footsteps of members of his family. Two of his grandfathers were code talkers in World War II and another one was a prisoner of war in Korea. Since World War I, a member of James' family has been in war.**

cation, and through her I learned the language, a lot of the teachings. She shared them with me."

James still retains his childhood knowledge and is fluent in Navajo.

For James, his heritage and military service go hand in hand. Since World War I, one of his family members has always volunteered to go and "fight for our country," he said.

"Some of the things that influenced me to be in the military were two of my grandfathers. [They] were code talkers in World War II," he said.

Another one of James' grandfathers was a prisoner of war in Korea.

James joked that he joined the Army instead of the Marines because the recruiting station was closer, but he was serious about the influence his uncle had on his decision when selecting an occupation.

"My uncle told me, when I was joining the Army, that when I go, I had better learn something useful. I went back to the recruiter and told him I wanted to be a mechanic," James said.

James' uncle influenced him on picking a

military career, but James joined for his own private reasons.

"[I joined] mostly for my own experience," James said. "Really, to change environments a little bit."

Despite the change of environment, James carries his heritage with him.

"When I joined the Army, my dad gave me this, (a small leather pouch filled with ground white corn). When I went home on leave, my dad gave me (a smaller leather pouch). It has a stone bear inside, with ground white corn," he said. "I wouldn't exactly call them good-luck charms, they're more like [for] protection."

Family is an important part of his heritage. It is the bond that keeps them together, James said. He is single and without children but said he plans on passing along his heritage to his children when he becomes a father.

"A lot of times, it's good to carry on the teachings and educate others," he said. "It's really a way of life."

James has strong convictions about his culture and heritage, but said he doesn't consider himself a role model.

"I'm only a positive influence for people back home," he said.

James said he tries to influence the children of his hometown positively, as when he was younger and there was a positive influence imprinted into him by a U.S. government teacher who taught him the Navajo word hojo, pronounced ho-JO.

"It means balance, spirit and harmony. I used to always think about that, one word being so old but having so much meaning," James said. "You can't take a person for granted. You can't take Mother Nature for granted. That one word summarizes so much."

A powerful word describes this man, his heritage and proud culture: Navajo.

## Navajo Soldier remembers his heritage

Story and photo by Spc. Leah R. Burton  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

**BALAD, Iraq** — It's very easy to lose touch with one's heritage in the cultural stew that is the United States.

This has especially affected the Native Americans, who first called home the land we know as America.



**Sgt. Delvin Slick constructs the walls of a new structure he is helping build on Logistics Support Area Anaconda in Balad, Iraq.**

Sgt. Delvin Slick, a carpentry and masonry specialist in the 84th Combat Engineer Battalion from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, hails from a Navajo reservation in Arizona and clings tightly to his Native American roots.

Born in Tuba City, Ariz., and raised on the Navajo reservation in Shonto, Ariz., Slick spent much of his time learning about Navajo history and tradition from his grandparents.

"My mother used to take me to my grandmother's. She has no electricity and no running water. I had to help her tend to the livestock," Slick said.

His grandparents still live the traditional Navajo way, which is simplistic and focuses on respecting and honoring Mother Earth and all that she provides.

Slick's grandparents taught him about the "Long Walk," in which about 8,000 Navajo men, women and children were rounded up and made to walk more than 300 miles from northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico to a desolate tract of land on the Pecos River, called Bosque Redondo.

This has given him a greater understanding and appreciation of his heritage, he said.

"My grandfather taught me what our people went through, what our culture's all about," Slick said. "I'm very grateful for that. I didn't appreciate it then."

Slick attended school on the reservation until high school, when he went to Flagstaff High School in Flagstaff, Ariz. Immediately after high school, Slick joined the Army.

"I saw an opportunity to get an education and to get away from home," Slick said.

Although his family members had mixed feelings about his decision to join the Army, he said, his grandparents told him to do what he felt he had to do and let them know what the world is like.

He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Advanced Individual Training at the Naval Construction Battalion Center at Gulfport, Miss., in 1996.

Because of the values instilled in him by his parents and grandparents, Slick fits right into the military way of life. He said some of the most valuable lessons he learned from his family are to be responsible and to respect other people.

"When I was growing up, everyone had a responsibility, even the little kids," Slick said.

Due to the influence of American culture, a lot of Navajo values and traditions are being lost, Slick said. His grandmother talked of a time when things would change, when the Navajo ways would all but disappear.

He manages to hang onto his heritage, however.

"All I have to do is go back home and talk to my grandparents," Slick said. "They remind me who I am and where I came from."



# Capoeira

## Martial art fuses dance and fighting

Story and photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino  
28th Public Affairs Detachment

**BALAD, Iraq** — A Soldier spins in a move that fuses dancing with fighting.

On Sundays and Wednesdays at the Logistics Support Area Anaconda Fitness Center here, a class is offered to those who want to learn this martial art, capoeira.

"It's an African and Brazilian martial art that [spans] from Angola to Brazil," said Sgt. John Burgess, a member of the 512th Maintenance Company and the instructor of the class. "It started with slavery and the [participants] disguised the fighting art as dancing."

The techniques were so convincing that even the slaves' masters would watch the participants, unaware that they were actually training to fight, thinking they were just watching them dance.

Burgess became involved in capoeira seven years ago, he said, after watching the movie "Only the Strong," a movie about an Army ranger teaching inner-city children capoeira. He started researching capoeira and took an interest in it.

While the moves and motion are fluid, there is no doubt that what is actually being taught is a martial art.

"These are basically self-defense techniques," Burgess said. "There's a lot of close-quarters moves, a lot of knees and elbows."

The technique also teaches proper footing,

good reflexes and fluid motion for an overall workout.

"It's exhausting," Burgess said. "There's lots of cardiovascular. It's an all-body workout. It also teaches balance control, natural timing and good muscular stretching."

With all martial arts, there are things to be aware of before participating.

"The dangers [of capoeira] have a lot to do with stress fractures, ankles and knees," Burgess said. "You have to be in good condition. It's pretty acrobatic."

The students are in varying degrees of training. Burgess works one-on-one with participants to teach them the moves and perfect the styles.

"I've been wanting to do it since high school," said Spc. Ruben Garcia, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and also a capoeira student. "I walked [into the gym] one day and saw guys doing flips and stuff, so I thought it was pretty cool. I asked some questions and [here I am]."

Burgess has resorted to strange measures to teach his students, but they demonstrate his involvement and commitment to the sport.

"I taught Miguel (Figueroa) how to do his first kick by [telling him to] hold his leg up in the shower," Burgess said.

It worked. Figueroa is currently one of the more advanced students in the class and filled in as the instructor while Burgess was on leave.



Spc. Miguel Figueroa, of the 118th Medical Battalion, gets pinned by Sgt. John Burgess, of the 512th Maintenance Company, in a classic capoeira move.



Spc. Miguel Figueroa, of the 118th Medical Battalion, makes a signature capoeira movement. The martial art form originated in Angola and Brazil with the movement of slavery.



Spc. Ruben Garcia (left), of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, and Spc. Miguel Figueroa, of the 118th Medical Battalion, practice capoeira, a form of martial arts that fuses dancing with fighting, an art that traces its origins back to Africa and Brazil.



Spc. Joseph Bowman, of the 319th Corps Support Battalion, demonstrates his agility while practicing a leaping kick during the capoeira class Nov. 5.